(e) whether this shortage has pushed the prices of sugar on an increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The sugar production in 2004-05 sugar season (October, 2004 to September 2005) was 13.0 million tonnes (Provisional) as against 14.0 million tonnes in the sugar season 2003-04.

(c) and (d) In order to augment the domestic availability of sugar stocks for the sugar year 2004-05 factoring in for normative reserve stocks of 3 months's consumption as on 1.10.2005, besides utilization of idle capacity of the sugar mills by providing the inputs (raw sugar) for manufacture of sugar and availability of sugar at reasonable price to the consumers, the Government facilitated import of raw sugar under Advance License Scheme as per extant Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09.

(e) The retail price of sugar remained firm in the sugar season 2004-05.

SDF loan to Karnataka

2629. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the State Government of Karnataka for sanctioning on amount of Rs. 50.50 crores from the Sugar Development Fund for setting up a 10 MW Co-Gen unit and a 45 KL per day distillery;

(b) the present status of consideration of this proposal; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The documents were found to be incomplete and the State Government of Karnataka was requested for the same. Applications can be considered only when complete documents are submitted by the Sugar mill/State Government.